

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-SECOND SESSION

S.F. No. 3108

(SENATE AUTHORS: DUCKWORTH)

DATE
02/14/2022

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Introduction and first reading
Referred to Education Finance and Policy

OFFICIAL STATUS

- 1.1 A bill for an act
- 1.2 relating to education finance; creating the transportation options program to address
- 1.3 the negative impacts of COVID-19 on pupil transportation; appropriating money.
- 1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
- 1.5 Section 1. **TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS PROGRAM.**
- 1.6 Subdivision 1. Notification. Before the start of each school year, a district must notify
- 1.7 parents or guardians of the transportation options program under this section. The notice
- 1.8 must include information on how to apply for and receive transportation reimbursement.
- 1.9 Subd. 2. Eligibility. A parent or guardian of a public or nonpublic school pupil may
- 1.10 apply for transportation reimbursement when the pupil's transportation services have been
- 1.11 negatively impacted by COVID-19 and:
- 1.12 (1) the pupil lives two miles or more from the serving school;
- 1.13 (2) the pupil lives in a full-service school zone; or
- 1.14 (3) transportation is deemed necessary by the school board because of distance, traffic,
- 1.15 or other conditions.
- 1.16 The pupil may attend school in the resident district or a nonresident district. A parent or
- 1.17 guardian receiving transportation reimbursement must voluntarily surrender transportation
- 1.18 privileges under Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.88, subdivision 2, or must have had
- 1.19 transportation services provided under Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.86, that were
- 1.20 interrupted due to a change in the district's instructional model as a result of COVID-19. A
- 1.21 parent or guardian claiming transportation reimbursement for a pupil under Minnesota

Statutes, section 124D.03, subdivision 8, or 124E.15, paragraph (e), is not eligible for transportation reimbursement under this section.

Subd. 3. Transportation reimbursement. A parent or guardian of a public or nonpublic school pupil may apply to the pupil's resident district for reimbursement for transporting the pupil to and from the pupil's school. The state must provide state aid to a district in an amount sufficient to reimburse the parent or guardian for the necessary transportation costs under this section. For purposes of this section, "necessary transportation costs" means the cost of transportation in a private vehicle, taxi, or shared vehicle as a result of COVID-19. The reimbursement may not exceed the pupil's actual cost of transportation or per mile traveled, whichever is less. Reimbursement may not be paid for more than 250 miles per week.

Subd. 4. Transportation aid formulas; ineligible. Transportation provided under this section must not be included in calculations for transportation aid under Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.92, or the pupil transportation adjustment under Minnesota Statutes, section 126C.10, subdivision 18a.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective only for the 2022-2023 school year, the 2023-2024 school year, and the 2024-2025 school year.

Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION.**

(a) \$..... in fiscal year 2023 is appropriated from the state fiscal recovery federal fund to the commissioner of education for reimbursement of transportation costs under the transportation options program for the 2022-2023 school year, the 2023-2024 school year, and the 2024-2025 school year.

(b) For the purposes of this act, "state fiscal recovery federal fund" means funds received by the state from the state fiscal recovery fund in the American Rescue Plan Act, Public Law 117-2. This is a onetime appropriation and is available until December 31, 2026. Any funds not obligated by eligible organizations by November 15, 2024, must be returned to the commissioner of management and budget.